

## CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A mounting apparatus for an energy absorbing motor vehicle steering  
5 column including a lower mast jacket and an upper mast jacket supported on the  
lower mast jacket for linear translation relative thereto in the direction of a  
longitudinal centerline of the steering column in response a longitudinal vector  
component of an impact on the steering column comprising:  
a honeycomb molded plastic mounting bracket having a pair of lateral  
10 flanges and a center passage closely received around the upper mast jacket and  
supporting the plastic mounting bracket on the upper mast jacket for linear  
translation relative thereto in the direction of the longitudinal center line of the  
steering column; and  
a clamp means operative to rigidly clamp a planar top of the plastic  
15 mounting bracket against a planar panel on a body of the motor vehicle so that the  
upper mast jacket is supported vertically on the motor vehicle body and the center  
passage in the plastic mounting bracket defines a slide bearing for the upper mast  
jacket, a vertical vector component of the impact on the steering column being  
reacted to the motor vehicle body from the onset of linear translation of the upper  
20 mast jacket through the planar top of the plastic mounting bracket and the planar  
panel on the motor vehicle body and a lateral vector component of the impact on  
the steering column being reacted tot he motor vehicle body from the onset of  
linear translation of the upper mast jacket through the clamp means thereby to

positively define the path of an energy absorbing collapse stroke of the upper mast jacket relative to the vehicle body.